Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system for a diesel engine, which system ~~comprising~~ comprises a NO_x-trap comprising at least one first NO_x absorbent and platinum~~, characterised in that~~; and

   at least one second NO_x absorbent consisting essentially of at least one of alumina ~~and/or~~ and ceria ~~is~~ disposed upstream of the ~~first~~ NO_x-trap.

2. (Original) An exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein the first NO_x-absorbent is selected from the group consisting of alkaline earth metal compounds, alkali metal compounds, rare earth metal compounds and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim 2, wherein the or each alkaline earth metal compounds is selected from the group consisting of barium, magnesium, strontium and calcium.

4. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim 2, wherein the or each alkali metal compounds is selected from the group consisting of potassium and caesium.

5. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim 2, wherein the or each rare earth metal compounds is selected from the group consisting of cerium, yttrium, lanthanum and praseodymium.

6. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim 2~~, 3, 4 or 5~~, wherein the or each alkaline earth metal ~~compound~~ compounds, the or each alkali metal ~~compound~~ compounds or the or each rare earth metal ~~compound~~ compounds is supported on a support material.

7. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim 6, wherein the ~~or each~~ support is selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, titania, zirconia, ceria and mixtures or a composite oxide of any two or more thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim ~~6~~ 2, wherein the first NO_x absorbent ~~comprises the support~~ is a support for the platinum.

9. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to ~~any preceding~~ claim~~,~~ 1 further comprising a catalyst for oxidising NO to NO_2 disposed between the at least one second NO_x absorbent and the NO_x-trap.

10. (Original) An exhaust system according to claim 9, wherein the NO oxidation catalyst is platinum on an alumina support.

11. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim ~~9 or 10,~~ further comprising a particulate filter disposed between the oxidation catalyst and the NO_x-trap.

12. An exhaust system according to ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the NO_x-trap further comprises a particulate filter.

13. An exhaust system according to ~~any preceding~~ claim~~,~~ 1 further comprising a catalyst comprising a catalyst component for oxidising hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide to water and carbon dioxide and an oxygen storage component, ~~which~~ wherein the catalyst is disposed downstream of the NO_x-trap.

14. (Original) An exhaust system according to claim 13, wherein the oxidation catalyst comprises platinum or palladium supported on a bulk ceria-zirconia mixed oxide oxygenation storage component.

15. (Currently Amended) A diesel engine comprising an exhaust system according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1.

16. (Original) A light-duty diesel engine according to claim 15.

17. (Currently Amended) An engine according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~, comprising an engine control unit, when in use, intermittently to adjust the exhaust gas composition to the rich side for regenerating the at least one first NO_x absorbent.

18. (Currently Amended) A flow-through substrate comprising: a NO_x-trap comprising a first zone coated with a composition comprising at least one first NO_x absorbent and platinum, and a second zone coated with a composition comprising at least one second NO_x-absorbent, which at least one second NO_x absorbent ~~consisting~~ consists essentially of alumina and/or ceria.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of treating NO_x in the exhaust gas of a diesel engine, which method comprising:

(i) absorbing NO_x from lean exhaust gas in at least one second NO_x absorbent consisting essentially of alumina and~~/or~~ ceria, when a downstream NO_x-trap comprising at least one first NO_x absorbent and platinum is inactive for reducing NO_x ~~using a suitable reductant~~;

(ii) thermally desorbing ~~stored~~ NO_x from the at least one second NO_x absorbent; and

(iii) reducing NO_x on the downstream NO_x-trap using a suitable reductant.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19~~,~~ further comprising the step between steps (i) and (ii) of adsorbing NO_x on the at least one ~~first~~ second NO_x absorbent of the downstream NO_x-trap.